

## Joint statement by US for IT and PA to S for IT

â€‹The Under Secretary for Innovation and Technology, Dr David Chung; and the Political Assistant to the Secretary for Innovation and Technology, Ms Lillian Cheong, made a joint statement today (January 8) regarding their attendance of a banquet in the evening on January 3 and apologised to the public for their inadequate awareness and the additional burden brought to the anti-epidemic work caused by the incident.

"We have all along been attending activities organised by the industry and different sectors to strengthen our interactions with stakeholders. The banquet of a stakeholder held in the evening of January 3 was one of them. We adhered to law in wearing masks and using the 'LeaveHomeSafe' mobile app when entering the restaurant and left in the middle of the banquet. We also fully co-operate to meet the requirements laid down by the Centre for Health Protection and have started quarantine at the Penny's Bay Quarantine Centre early this morning after knowing the banquet involved a case tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 virus involving mutant strains or another preliminary positive case.

"Looking back, we are inadequate, both in vigilance and sensitivity. Concerted efforts of the whole society are needed to fight the virus, especially in light of the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus involving mutant strains. We are deeply sorry for the additional burden brought to the anti-epidemic work caused by the incident. We have learnt a lesson the hard way and will spare no effort to elevate our level of vigilance from now on," they said.